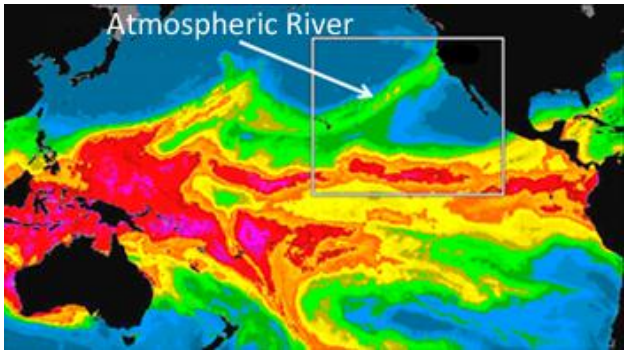
Western Water – A Precious Resource

"Although it seems the governors talk about water every time we get together, I say we shouldn't have a Western Governors' Association meeting where we don't talk about water." *--Governor Schweitzer*

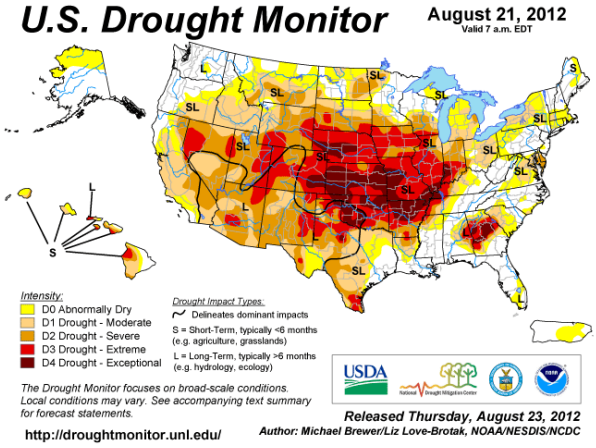
You may have heard the phrase: "*Whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting over*". This quote has been around for over a century, and conveys the value, politics, history and complexity of water resources. Simply put, water is very serious business.

In the West, NOAA's hydrologic work concerns issues of ***too much water***, ***too little water***, and ***poor water quality***. Across this spectrum, NOAA West links scientists, engineers and managers together to integrate knowledge and expertise in ways that improve NOAA service and information delivery in the region.

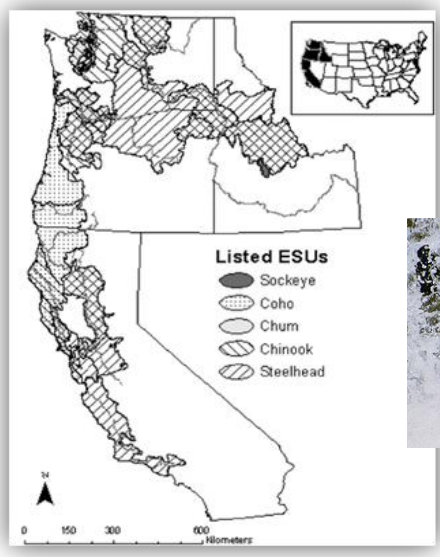


"Too Much Water" – When it rains, it can really pour, and sometimes flood. NOAA provides seasonal precipitation outlooks, monitors extreme precipitation events such as atmospheric rivers, reports observed precipitation, issues flood forecasts, and supports coastal communities directly impacted by extreme hydrologic events.

"Too Little Water" – Water scarcity is nothing new, but sometimes it can persist and result in drought conditions, and worsen risk of wild fire – both of which have significant consequences to our regional economy and way of life. NOAA forecasts and provides decision support for drought through the National Integrated Drought information System (NIDIS) program and Climate Prediction Center.



"Poor Water Quality" – NOAA has management responsibilities for protected resources such as Pacific Salmon. Too much water at the wrong time or not enough water at critical times in the salmon lifecycle can lead to changes in habitat that have direct and negative impacts to fisheries.



The unique role of NOAA West - These different parts of our organization are linked together through team member networks and expertise, strategic partnerships, and targeted collaborations. By utilizing the team's network connections and interdisciplinary expertise, NOAA is better able to develop and deliver applications of our science and technology to address issues of too much, too little, and poor water quality. This small but valuable contribution is one way the NOAA West network benefits agency operations and the public we serve.

For more information please visit:
NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory: http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/atmrivers/
National Integrated Drought Information System: http://www.drought.gov
NOAA Climate Prediction Center: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
NOAA Habitat Conservation: http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/index.html